

MARYLAND STATE BAR ASSOCIATION ANIMAL LAW SECTION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Maryland State Bar Association Animal Law Section
Kimberly L. Fullerton, Esq.
301-870-9555
RE: Senate Bill 942 – Health and Wellness Standards – Correctional Facilities
DATE: March 20, 2023
POSITION: Support

The Maryland State Bar Association Animal Law Section is in support of SB 942, a bill which would update minimum health standards and expand access to plant based meals in correctional facilities.

I. Update Minimum Standards of Correctional Facilities

This bill is necessary to update minimum health standards and ensure access to plant based meals in correctional facilities. The Pilot Program will generate transparency by providing generalized health data to decisionmakers. The data will improve inmate health and policy implementation by identifying trends amongst inmate populations and evaluating the efficacy of programs.

II. Expanding Access to Plant Based Meals Will Benefit People, Animals, and the Environment

The United Nations identifies plant based diets as a major opportunity for combating the climate crisis and improving human health. This bill represents Maryland's alignment with local communities and global leadership in tackling some of the world's greatest issues.

The Maryland State Bar Association urges a favorable report.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/

Kimberly Fullerton,

Immediate Past Chair, Maryland State Bar Association Animal Law Section

Vice Chair, American Bar Association Animal Law Committee

cc: Maryland State Bar Association